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ing) journey (or, course of action) (*i. e.*) that the illustrious son of Ecgðeow was willing to leave the earth ; against his will he had to take up his abode elsewhere.' [Cf. *Engl. St.* xxxix, 466.]

A convenient typographical innovation of this edition deserves especial mention. Following Bülbring's suggestion, Holthausen writes the short diphthongs as *ĕa*, *ĕo* and the long ones as *ea*, *eo* and is thus enabled to employ *ĕa* and *ĕo* for metrical dissyllables, as *nĕan*, *flĕon*. But would not the distinctions *ea*, *ĕa* (*eā*), *ĕa*; *eo*, *ĕo* (*eō*), *ĕo*, though by no means perfect, be on the whole more satisfactory? (E. g., *heard*, *brĕac*, *geāra*, *hĕan*; *eorðe*, *dĕop*, *geōmor*, *tĕon*.) Finally, attention may be called to the interesting *Urtext* of the first fifty-two lines which the editor has attempted to reconstruct.

When the second part—including the Introduction, Glossary, and Notes—is completed, students of *Beowulf* will no doubt have every reason to congratulate themselves on having at their service an up-to-date edition both scholarly and practical.²

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CORRESPONDENCE.

CHAUCER AND THE *Cleomadès*.

To the Editors of Mod. Lang. Notes.

SIRS :—In the Publications of the *Modern Language Association*, vol. 23, pp. 557–598, Mr. H. S. V. Jones has collected a large amount of folklore relating to the *Cleomadès*. In a footnote on p. 598, he advances, tho tentatively, the theory that the *Cleomadès* was one of Chaucer's models for the *Squire's Tale*. It seems to me that the weight of probability against such a view is far greater than Mr. Jones realizes.

If Chaucer had used the *Cleomadès* it is almost certain that he would have carried over into his version some passage or, at the very least, a fraze from his model. The *Cleomadès* is, according to Medieval standards, rather a brilliant poem, an acquaintance with which would almost certainly have left some unmistakable trace of itself in the

English poem. Now, I have not been able to find so much as a fraze in the *Squire's Tale* that suggests borrowing from the *Cleomadès*. If another reader has had a different experience I shall be extremely glad to hear from him. But until some reader shall point out evidence of the kind indicated, it seems to me that we shall not advance the solution of the problem by assuming the *Cleomadès* to have been a source. I have called attention to this matter on page 212 of my *Notes on Chaucer*, which Mr. Jones seems to have ignored.

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Hamlet, II, 2. 181–187.

To the Editors of Mod. Lang. Notes.

SIRS :—

“*Ham.* For if the sun breed maggots in a dead dog, being a good (god) kissing carrion—Have you a daughter?

“*Pol.* I have, my lord.

“*Ham.* Let her not walk i' the sun : conception is a blessing ; but as your daughter may conceive,—friend, look to 't.”

Few passages in the play have caused more discussion than these lines, and the passage is still debatable. I would suggest that when Hamlet says, ‘Let her not walk i' the sun,’ he makes a play on the word *sun*, just as he had previously punned on the word, when, in response to the King's :

How is it that the clouds still hang on you ?

he replied :

Not so, my lord ; I am too much i' the sun.

(I, 2. 66–67.)

The passage would then mean : If the sun breed maggots in a dead dog, so the ardency of this *son* may have a like effect upon your daughter if you do not keep her out of the way,—a conception that would not be at all to your liking. This interpretation increases the harshness of these coarse lines, but is consistent with Hamlet's broad speeches to Ophelia in the play scene, and his bitter words to her in the scene where she acts as a decoy.

As to Hamlet's attitude toward Ophelia, critics are agreed, either that his mother's conduct had destroyed his confidence in women and consequently had turned him against Ophelia, or else that, in order to devote himself strictly to the business in hand, he wished Ophelia to be out of

² Since writing the above—a couple of years ago—Holthausen's complete edition has been reviewed by Schücking, *Engl. St.* xxxix, 94 ff., Lawrence, *J. Engl. and Gmc. Philol.* vii, 125 ff., Deutschbein, *H. Arch.* cxxi, 162 ff.